

Rape is not the fault of the victim. It is the fault of the criminal. And according to ABC News, over 1,000 rapes and assaults occurred in the last 10 years against American women working for the Peace Corps. But apparently no one is listening.

Those days need to end, and it's time for justice for Jess Smochek, because justice is what we do in this country.

And that's just the way it is.

#### EPA DISREGARDS STATES' RIGHTS

(Mr. HALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I'm very troubled by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia's decision to allow the Environmental Protection Agency to disregard States' rights in implementing the Clean Air Act by seizing control of greenhouse gas permitting activities in our State of Texas. The EPA's regulatory interference in the State permitting process will have a very detrimental effect on jobs and the economy of not just Texas, but potentially the entire Nation.

The authority for EPA's action is grounded in the agency's "endangerment finding," which is based on controversial scientific conclusions regarding the threat and impact of climate change. EPA's pursuit of job-killing regulation is the last thing this economy needs right now.

Congress and the Obama administration both owe it to the public to base regulatory action on methods that are beyond reproach.

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#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOHMERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### AMERICA'S PRIORITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, at its core, the budget is a statement of America's priorities. It says what we as a Nation value. After all of the Republican budget-cutting promises that preceded and followed the recent midterm elections, we are finally seeing what the Republicans are really about, what they really value—press releases.

Their whole legislative agenda since they gained control of the House has amounted to nothing more than Republican theater. The Republicans are doing the exact opposite of what they promised. They are offering no transparency and no thoughtful consider-

ation of the budget in the Congress, and no job proposals. Instead, they are just offering a radical Republican wish list to appease their base.

Sadly, the budget process is going to be just another backroom deal. Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin has been appointed to determine, on his own, with no input from the rest of the House, what the budget spending limits will be. If you care about openness and transparency, you're going to be disappointed.

The Republicans said everything would be on the table, with increased input and debate among the Members. Instead, we're going to get a budget number drafted by one Member, and we'll be forced to accept it without a vote. If you care about fairness and democracy, you are about to get a very rude awakening. If you care about making smart investments where all Americans can benefit and prosper, you're going to be disappointed. And if you're a faithful deficit hawk who thought a Republican-controlled House would reduce the deficit, you've been hoodwinked.

In the runup to the midterm elections, Republicans promised that if they won the House, they would cut \$100 billion from the budget. They didn't have a plan, but \$100 billion sure sounded like a good number. Well, it is now months after the election, and they still don't have a plan, no specifics, no baseline number. And boy, are they running away from that \$100 billion commitment as fast as possible.

The Republicans do have a list that includes over 100 cuts that completely disregard the economic and social impacts the cuts would have. Mr. Speaker, budgets are about values. They are a moral document. In general, you are either in favor of making smart investments and helping the less fortunate—so, you're smart and compassionate—or you demonize collective government and it's everybody for himself, laissez-faire capitalism.

The Republican Study Committee's list of budget cuts shows us which side of the values equation the Republicans are on. They want to preserve hundreds of billions of dollars for corporate tax breaks but take away student loans from tens of thousands of students. They want to keep building weapons systems that the Pentagon doesn't want, but they cut historic preservation. They want to encourage the offshoring of jobs, but want to cut programs that help our exporters.

Mr. Speaker, we are a month into the Republican leadership of this House, and we haven't seen a single move toward creating jobs. We are a month into the Republican leadership of this House, and we don't have a budget number. We haven't had a hearing, and we have no budget proposal that can be honestly debated.

Cutting the budget is no easy task, and I strongly urge the Republicans to end the political theater and think about our country's values and priorities when it comes to laying out the

budget. Let's have an open, fair, and transparent discussion of job creation. The talk of shifting all of the costs of Medicaid onto the States is foolish. You know the poor will suffer with that kind of a proposal. So let's work together toward a responsible budget that reflects that we are both smart and compassionate.

#### BRING OUR TROOPS HOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am on the floor again tonight, and I have said that I intend to be on the floor each and every night that I can be on the floor to talk about bringing our troops home from Afghanistan.

I hope tomorrow night when the President gives the State of the Union, that he will stay to and keep his word when he said he will start bringing our troops home in July of 2011. The reason I am somewhat concerned, there have been leaders in both parties, primarily on the Senate side, who have said that they think that they need 4 more years in Afghanistan. Well, you know, that might be a dream, but that is all it is, a dream. You're not going to change history. History has spoken many, many times, from Alexander the Great to the English to the Russians, that Afghanistan is a vast country of many, many tribes, and they never have had a national government, and they will not under Karzai. He is corrupt. He is very corrupt.

So I hope that the President will stick to his timetable of bringing our troops home beginning in July of this year, and that he will be not swayed by anyone who says just 4 more years. I say that for this reason: I am on the Armed Services Committee, and I remember a few years ago when they were telling us, these generals would come in—and I respect each and every one of them—and they would say to us: Well, we're making progress. We're training the Afghans to be policemen. We're training the Afghans to be soldiers.

Well, we are 10 years later, and we are still training. How much more can you do? It is costing us \$8 billion a month. And more important than the money is the lost lives and the broken bodies of our men and women in uniform.

Recently I had the opportunity, the privilege, to go to Walter Reed in Bethesda. Mr. Speaker, for the first time before I walked into this young soldier's room, I was told out front by the major that escorted me that he has no body parts below his waist. They have all been blown away.

Then I had an opportunity to see a marine sergeant during the same visit who had been to Afghanistan four times, and on the fourth tour, he had his left leg blown off. What in the world are we trying to do? Why don't